MRTP Commission is a quasi-judicial body, enquiries before the Commission are the subjudice.

(f) and (g) On the basis of experience gained after 1991 Amendment of MRTP Act, MRTP Commission recently made some suggestions for further rationalisation of this Act. These would be considered in consultation with the concerned Authorities.

Regulatory mechanism in liberalisation process

2657. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in the process of liberalisation of an economy and the consequent privatisation, there is a need to strengthen the overall regulatory mechanism, including the provisions of the MRTP Act;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken during the past four years in this direction;

(c) if not, in what manner Government propose to prevent the possible misuse of liberalisation and privatisation; and

(d) what has been the experience and practice of the western countries and also those countries which have gone through the process of liberalisation during the last decade or so, in the matter of need to strengthen the regulatory mechanism ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) to (d) Several changes have been made in the MRTP Act, 1969 since its enactment. The last amendment was made in 1991. On the basis of experience gained, MRTP Commission has recently made same suggestions for further rationalisation of this Act. These would be considered in consultation with concerned authorities, having regard to the laws and practices in other developed countries.

MRTPC action against Coca Cola and Pepsi Cola

2658. SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the M.R.T.P.C. has taken action against multinational companies, Coca Cola and Pepsi Cola for indulging in several restrictive trade practices falling under M.R.T.P.;

(b) if so, when;

(c) what are the details of the actions the Commission has taken against such multinational companies; and

(d) when will the M.R.T.P.C. ensure that these restrictive clauses are removed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) to (d) Director General Investigation and Registration has filed application dated 18-4-1994 against M/s. Coca Cola Company USA and M/s. Brindavan Agro Industries Ltd. and another application dated 29-6-1994 against Pepsi Co. Inc., M/s. Pepsi Foods Ltd. and Agra Beverages Corporation Ltd. under Section 10(a)(iii) of the MRTP Act before the MRTP Commission. The Honourable Commission has already issued notices of enquiries against the said respondents. The Commission being a quasi-judicial body, both the matters are subjudice.

Modification of MRTP Act

2659. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that certain provisions of the MRTP Act were modified to facilitate the liberalisation process;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) in what manner Government propose to strengthen the MRTP Act to deal with the liberalised regime, on the pattern of Anti-trust and other laws in the USA, UK etc. ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) to (c) Several changes have been made in the MRTP Act, 1969 since its enactment, the last amendment was made in 1991. On the basis of experience gained, MRTP Commission has recently made some suggestions for further rationalisation of this Act. These would be considered in consultation with concerned authorities, having regard to the laws and practices in other developed country.